POL 14 VIETS

Department of State TELEGRAM

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Saigon 9818
10-25-67

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 09818 280810Z

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ACTION EA 15

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,SP 02,SS 20,
GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,SAH 03,SAL 01,L 03,H 02,IO 21,P 04,
INR 07,AID 30,RSR 01,/124 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izard DATE: 12/23/81
DOD ☐ or NSC ☐ EXCL. DATE
DOE ☐
DCI ☐
RELEASE ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

P 280700Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9806

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9818

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: BRIEFING THE PRESS

REF: A. STATE 59589 B. SAIGON 9443 C. SAIGON 9755 D. SAIGON 9723

1. REF A. MENTIONED POSSIBLE BACKGROUNDER FOR SAIGON PRESS ON RESULTS LOWER HOUSE ELECTION AND REQUESTED MISSION TELEGRAPH FULL RESUME OF SUCH A BRIEFING.

2. AT REGULAR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON OCTOBER 25 PRESS BACK-GROUNDER FOR SELECTED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES MINISTER-COUNSELOR FOR INFORMATION AND REPRESENTATIVE OF POLITICAL SECTION BRIEFED PRESS IN GENERAL TERMS ALONG LINES OF REFS B. THROUGH D. BRIEFING COVERED COMPOSITION OF THE NEW LOWER HOUSE AS TO AGE, ORIGIN, PROFESSION, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL AFFILIATION. ALTHOUGH PRESSED TO DO SO, WE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO PERDICT THE POLITICAL COLORING OF THE LOWER HOUSE AS A WHOLE SAYING THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO DO SO. WE DID MAKE POINT THAT A LARGE

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PAGE 2 RUMJIR 9818 C O N F I D E N T I A L
NUMBER OF WINNERS HAVE EXCELLENT RECORDS AS HONEST AND

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COMPETENT ADMINISTRATORS; THAT THE LOWER HOUSE REFLECTS THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF LEGITIMATE POLITICAL INTEREST GROUPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM; AND THAT IT CAN BE SAID THAT LOWER HOUSE IS A DIVERSE BODY WHICH INCLUDES A GOOD MANY ACTIVITIST WHO WILL CERTAINLY BRING CONSIDERABLE ENERGY (AND COMPETENCE) TO THE LOWER HOUSE.

3. WITH INAUGURATION AND NATIONAL DAY CEREMONIES DIVERTING ATTENTION AND ENERGY OF BOTH PRESS CORPS AND MISSION, WE DO NOT PROPOSE ANY ADDITIONAL FORMAL BACKGROUNDERS ON ELECTIONS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IN OUR NORMAL DAY-BY-DAY CONTACTS WITH THE PRESS WE WILL CONTINUE TO BRIEF ALONG LINES AS SET FORTH ABOVE.

BUNKER

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